

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/672,852

Examiner

Amee A. Shah

Applicant(s)

KARAOGUZ ET AL.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Ex. Amdt of 4/2/07 & Remarks/Amdt of 1/17/07.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-43, 45-54, 56 and 57.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material

5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application

6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.

7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment

8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

9. ☐ Other _____.


JEFFREY A. SMITH
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment regarding the claims was given in a telephone interview with Ognyan Beremski on April 2, 2007.

In the Title:

The title has been changes as follows:

Systems and Circuits for Providing Purchasing Peripheral Support for User Transactions
on in a Media Exchange Network

In the claims:

Claims 44 and 55 are cancelled.

Claim 30 is amended as follows:

30. (Amended) One or more circuits for use in a set top box in a media exchange network, the one or more circuits comprising:

a display interface operably coupled to a display; and

at least one processor operably coupled to at least one interface for communicating via a broadband communication network, and to storage for storing media and having an associated network address, the at least one processor operable to:

deliver media from the storage to the display at a first location, via the display interface,

receive from an authorization device associated with a first user of the media exchange network at the first location, information for authorizing a user transaction, and

send a request to a server, the request comprising one or more of the associated network address, information identifying the user transaction, and at least a portion of the information for authorizing the user transaction, and wherein the request causes the server to enable authorization by the first user of a second user of the media exchange network at a second location so that at least a portion of the authorized user transaction is performed with the second user, via the broadband communication network without divulging the identity of the first user to the second user.

Claim 46 is amended as follows:

46. (Amended) One or more circuits for use in a communication terminal at a first location in a media exchange network, the one or more circuits comprising:

at least one interface for communicating via a communication network; and

at least one processor operably coupled to the at least one interface, the at least one processor having an associated network address and being operable to:

receive from a first user, at the first location, information for authorizing a user transaction,

send a request comprising one or more of the associated network address, information identifying the user transaction, and at least a portion of the information for authorizing the user transaction, to a server, and

cause delivery of media from storage to a communication terminal of a second user at a second location via the communication network, wherein the first user authorizes the second user to communicate with the first user prior to the media delivery without divulging the identity of the first user to the second user.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Claims 1-43, 45-54, 56 and 57 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claim 1

The prior art of record neither anticipates nor fairly and reasonably teaches the system of claim 1 of providing support for user transaction on a media exchange network. In particular, the prior art does not anticipate nor fairly and reasonably teach a system comprising: a television display for consumption of media at a first location; a storage for storing media, and having an associated network address; set top box circuitry at the first location, the set top box circuitry communicatively coupled to deliver media from the storage to the television display; an interface device for receiving from an authorization device associated with a first user at the first location, information for authorizing a user transaction, the interface device communicatively coupled to the set top box circuitry; and server software that receives a request from the first user of the media exchange network, the request comprising one or more of the associated network address, information identifying the user transaction, and at least a portion of the information for authorizing the user transaction, the server software enables authorization by the first user of a second user of the media exchange network at a second location so that at least a portion of the authorized user transaction is performed with the second user, via a communication network, *without divulging the identity of the first user to the second user.*

The most remarkable prior arts of record, and discussed in prior Office Actions, is Novak, US 2003/0097655 A1 (hereafter referred to as “Novak”). Novak discloses a system (see Fig. 1) providing support for user transaction on a media exchange network (§0002); the system comprising: a television display (104) for consumption of media at a first location (§0082); a storage (310) for storing media (§0077), and having an associated network address (§0049); set top box (see Fig. 3: 102) circuitry (308) at the first location communicatively coupled to deliver media from the storage to the television display (§0076); an interface device (305) for receiving from an authorization device (see Fig. 4: 410) associated with a first user of the media exchange network information for authorizing a user transaction, the interface device communicatively coupled to the set top box circuitry (§0074); and server software that receives a request (Fig. 4: 409) from the first user of the media exchange network, the request comprising one or more of the associated network address, information identifying the user transaction, and at least a portion of the information for authorizing a user transaction (§§0049, 0088, and 0112 – note that the identification credentials may be encapsulated within the request). Novak further discloses the server software enabling authorization by the first user of a second user of the media exchange network at a second location so that at least a portion of the authorized user transaction is performed with the second user, via a communication network (§§0120-0124 – note that the second user to whom a portion or all of a license can be transferred can be at another location).

However, Novak does not anticipate nor fairly and reasonably teach the server software enables authorization by the first user of a second user of the media exchange network at a

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second location so that at least a portion of the authorized user transaction is performed with the second user, via a communication network, **without divulging the identity of the first user to the second user.**

Claims 2-14 and 28

Claims 2-14 are dependencies of independent claims 1 and are allowable over the prior art for the reasons identified above with respect to claim 1.

Claim 15

Claim 15 recites an article of manufacture of a system for providing support for user transactions on a media exchange network. The system comprises a television display, a storage, set top box circuitry, an interface device and server software consistent with and parallel to the functionalities and limitations of claim 1. This article of manufacture is allowable over the prior art for reasons consistent with those identified above with respect to claim 1.

Claims 16-27 and 29

Claims 16-27 and 29 are dependencies of independent claims 15 and are allowable over the prior art for the reasons identified above with respect to claim 15.

Claim 30

Claim 30 recites an article of manufacture of one or more circuits for use in a set top box in a media exchange network. The circuits comprise a display interface operably coupled to a

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display parallel to the television display of claim 1 and at least one processor consistent with and parallel to the functionalities and limitations of claim 1. This article of manufacture is allowable over the prior art for reasons consistent with those identified above with respect to claim 1.

Claims 31-43 and 45

Claims 31-43 and 45 are dependencies of independent claim 30 and are allowable over the prior art for the reasons identified above with respect to claim 30.

Claim 46

Claim 46 recites an article of manufacture of one or more circuits for use in a communication terminal at a first location a media exchange network. The circuits comprise a at least on interface for communicating parallel to the set top box circuitry of claim 1 and at least one processor consistent with and parallel to the functionalities and limitations of claim 1. This article of manufacture is allowable over the prior art for reasons consistent with those identified above with respect to claim 1.

Claims 47-54, 56 and 57

Claims 47-54, 56 and 57 are dependencies of independent claim 46 and are allowable over the prior art for the reasons identified above with respect to claim 46.

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Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

EXAMINER'S COMMENTS

Applicant's amendment, filed January 17, 2007, has been entered. Claims have been amended. In view of the amendments to the claims 1-5, 7-18, 20-33, 35, 37-43, 46-49, 56 and 57, filed January 17, 2007, the 35 U.S.C. §112 rejections are withdrawn. Applicant's arguments, see Remarks, filed January 17, 2007, with respect to the prior art Novak not disclosing an authorization by the first user to a second user without divulging the identity of the first user to the second user (Remarks, page 25) have been fully considered and are persuasive.

The one or more circuits of claims 30-57 are interpreted as circuitry hardware consistent with their ordinary and customary meaning in set top box technology and are therefore statutory under 35 U.S.C. §101.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ameer A. Shah whose telephone number is 571-272-8116. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri. 7:00 am - 3:30 pm.


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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffrey A. Smith can be reached on 571-272-6763. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

AAS

April 16, 2007


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